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LETTER DATED 25 JULY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to invite your attention to my letter of 7 July 1995 (S/1995/561) and your reply of 11 July 1995 (S/1995/562). On 13 July 1995, my Deputy Special Representative and Chief of the United Nations operation in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, received a detailed briefing by the Turkish Cypriot authorities on the excavations carried out by them at the Roccas Bastion in Nicosia; he also visited the site. On 14 July, an eight-man technical team of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) inspected the Bastion; a two-man team did so again on 15 July 1995.

The following are the findings from those inspections (see also sketch map attached):

(a) The central element of the work on top of the Bastion consists of 2 trenches, each approximately 100 metres in length, 3 metres in depth and 2 metres wide. The trenches form a cross. Their floors have been cemented and the walls lined with sandstone blocks reinforced by concrete pillars. UNFICYP was told that the trenches would be covered with reinforced concrete some 15 centimetres thick and then with the earth that would form the surface of a park area. This work has begun. The north-south trench has openings at each end; the east-west trench has no direct access from the surface. The north-south trench has two rooms designated as toilets. The east-west trench contains five small rooms designated for various purposes (two for storage, one for a generator, and two for the persons servicing the park);

(b) A similar trench, more than 100 metres long, was excavated near and parallel to the south-western wall of the Bastion. After pipes of corresponding sizes for water and sewage, as well as for electricity and telephone wires, had been put in, the trench was filled in again;

(c) The area at the apex of the Bastion was excavated and subsequently filled in again. This area appears to be connected to the south-west trench mentioned in the preceding subparagraph. The Turkish Cypriot authorities stated that a cafeteria is to be built on this spot.

The Turkish Cypriot authorities have maintained that the construction described above is for the sole purpose of installing the infrastructure that would house facilities and utilities for a public park and recreational area. They stated that, at historical sites like the old city walls, such facilities are required to be underground. The trenches would serve as passageways to provide access to the above-mentioned rooms and to facilitate repair of the water and sewage pipes as well as the electricity and telephone wires that will be located there.

UNFICYP is of the view that the construction on Roccas Bastion to date, including the material used, does not indicate work carried out to normal military specifications, or to any evident military logic. At the same time, the construction appears unnecessarily elaborate and costly for its stated purpose.

The Roccas Bastion is in a particularly sensitive location in Nicosia. It dominates its vicinity in the southern, Greek Cypriot, part of the city; it is adjacent to a busy intersection and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority is less than 100 metres away. At the Bastion, the United Nations buffer zone is only a few metres wide. It was for this reason that the Bastion was included in the 1989 unmanning agreement.

Mr. Feissel has informed me that the Turkish Cypriot authorities have now agreed that UNFICYP will have unhindered regular access to the site as the work proceeds and until its completion; it will have unhindered periodic access to the site thereafter.

These arrangements will enable UNFICYP to satisfy itself that the new infrastructure being built on Roccas Bastion continues to be used exclusively for civilian purposes. The first follow-up inspection took place on 22 July.

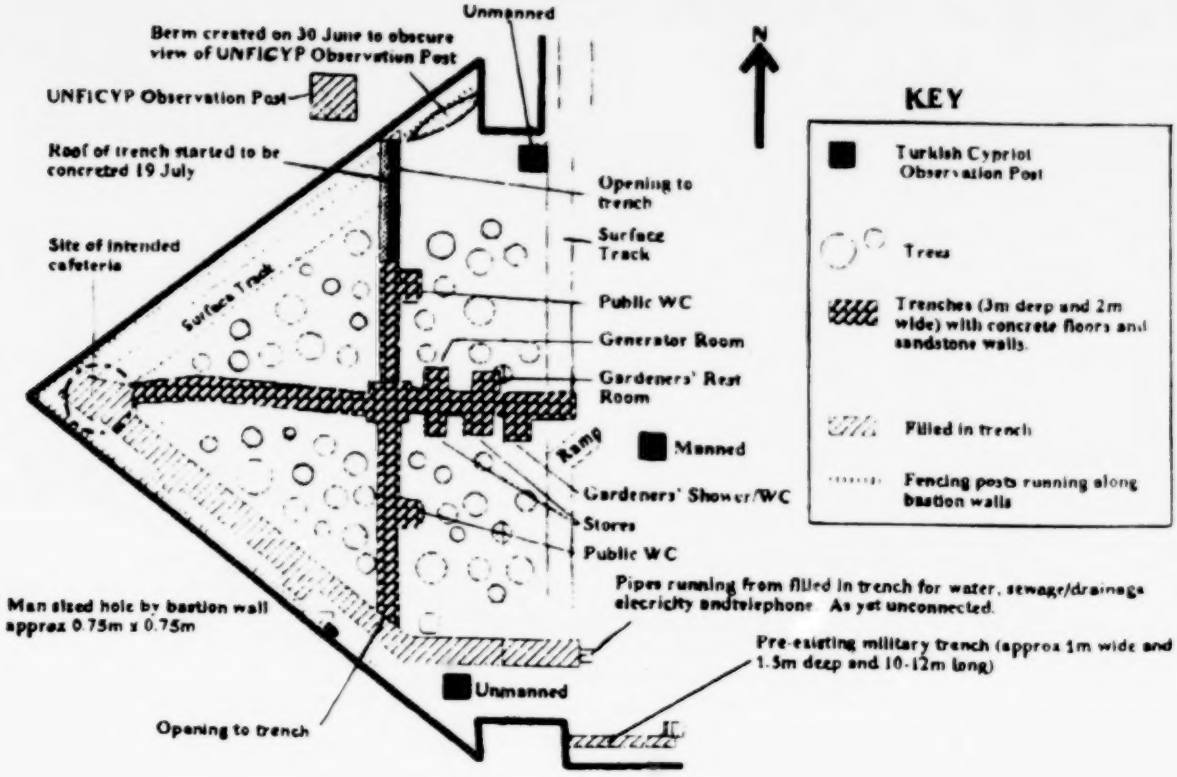
UNFICYP also found that a pre-existing military trench, located at the southern end of the Bastion adjacent to a military position that was unmanned in 1989, has had concrete walls installed and has been lengthened. The Turkish Cypriot authorities have undertaken to restore the status quo ante at this trench.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

CONSTRUCTION ON ROCCAS BASTION

SITUATION AS AT 19 JULY 95


Unmanned
Berm created on 30 June to obscure view of UNFICYP Observation Post
UNFICYP Observation Post
Roof of trench started to be concreted 19 July
Opening to trench
Site of intended cafeteria
Surface Track
Surface Track
Public WC
Generator Room
Gardeners' Rest Room
Ramp
Manned
Gardeners' Shower/WC
Stores
Public WC
Pipes running from filled in trench for water, sewage/drainage electricity and telephone. As yet unconnected.
Man sized hole by bastion wall approx 0.75m x 0.75m
Pre-existing military trench (approx 1m wide and 1.5m deep and 10-12m long)
Unmanned
Opening to trench
N
KEY
Turkish Cypriot Observation Post
Trees
Trenches (3m deep and 2m wide) with concrete floors and sandstone walls.
Filled in trench
Fencing posts running along bastion walls